

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1365

To award a congressional gold medal on behalf of Cesar E. Chavez in  
recognition of his service to the Nation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2005

Mr. BACA (for himself, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. REYES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. LEE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATSON, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. CASE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FARR, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KIND, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. WEINER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. CARSON, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SNYDER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WYNN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

# A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal on behalf of Cesar E. Chavez in recognition of his service to the Nation.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Cesar E. Chavez Con-  
5       gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Cesar E. Chavez was born March 31, 1927,  
9       on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona, and died on  
10      April 23, 1993.

11              (2) Numerous holidays, schools, parks, libraries,  
12      and other structures and events have been named  
13      after Cesar E. Chavez, in the United States and  
14      internationally, with many more planned.

15              (3) Cesar E. Chavez was a recipient of the  
16      Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Prize during his life-  
17      time and was awarded the Presidential Medal of  
18      Freedom on August 8, 1994.

19              (4) Cesar E. Chavez was the grandson of a  
20      Mexican immigrant and settler and grew up working  
21      with migrant farm workers, picking grapes, melons,  
22      beans, and other crops at low wages and for long

1 hours, during which time he developed a strong work  
2 ethic and respect for the farm workers his father  
3 called “the children of God”.

4 (5) At the age of 18, Cesar E. Chavez entered  
5 the United States Navy and served his country with  
6 distinction for 2 years.

7 (6) As early as 1949, Cesar E. Chavez com-  
8 mitted himself to organizing farm workers to cam-  
9 paign for safe and fair working conditions, reason-  
10 able wages, decent housing, and the outlawing of  
11 child labor.

12 (7) In 1962, Cesar E. Chavez founded the Na-  
13 tional Farm Workers Association, predecessor of the  
14 United Farm Workers of America, which brought  
15 hope to farm workers that they might one day real-  
16 ize the basic protections and workers’ rights to  
17 which all Americans aspire.

18 (8) Through his commitment to nonviolence,  
19 Cesar E. Chavez brought dignity and respect to the  
20 farm workers who organized themselves, and became  
21 an inspiration and a resource to other Americans  
22 and people engaged in human rights struggles  
23 throughout the world.

24 (9) Cesar E. Chavez’s fasts and strikes gained  
25 national attention and made people aware of the

1 struggle of farm workers for better pay and safer  
2 working conditions.

3 (10) Cesar E. Chavez was an advocate for non-  
4 violence at a time when violence penetrated every  
5 level of our society; he used boycotts, pickets,  
6 strikes, and fasts to achieve his goals and went to  
7 jail for refusing to stop his boycott against lettuce  
8 growers.

9 (11) Despite the killings and beatings of many  
10 workers, Chavez never wavered in his commitment to  
11 nonviolence.

12 (12) Cesar E. Chavez and his family also dedi-  
13 cated themselves to the education of farm workers'  
14 children through migrant schools, and many of these  
15 children graduated and worked as teachers, doctors,  
16 or nurses or in other professional occupations.

17 (13) The legacy of Cesar E. Chavez includes  
18 healthy working conditions that yield  
19 uncontaminated food for America's tables.

20 (14) Cesar E. Chavez's influence extends far  
21 beyond agriculture and provides inspiration for those  
22 working to better human rights through his example  
23 of organizing voter registration drives in urban and  
24 farm areas, initiating complaints against mistreat-  
25 ment by police and welfare officials, and empowering

1 workers to seek advancement in education and poli-  
2 tics.

3 (15) Cesar E. Chavez lived alongside his  
4 campesino brothers and sisters in humble sur-  
5 roundings.

6 (16) Upon his death in 1993, Cesar E. Chavez  
7 was laid to rest where he lived and worked for 23  
8 years on the grounds of the headquarters of the  
9 United Farm Workers of America, known as  
10 Nuestra Señora de La Paz (Our Lady of Peace), lo-  
11 cated in the Tehachapi Mountains at Keene, Cali-  
12 fornia.

13 (17) With faith, discipline, soft-spoken humility,  
14 and amazing inner strength, Cesar E. Chavez led a  
15 very courageous life.

16 (18) Cesar E. Chavez' words will always ring  
17 true in our country: Si se puede! Yes, we can!

18 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

19 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
20 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-  
21 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
22 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
23 medal of appropriate design to the next of kin or other  
24 personal representative of Cesar E. Chavez in recognition  
25 of his service to the Nation.

1 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the  
2 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
3 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the  
4 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
5 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
6 Secretary.

7 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

8 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
9 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3  
10 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe,  
11 and at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, includ-  
12 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead  
13 expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

14 **SEC. 5. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

15 The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national  
16 medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United  
17 States Code.

18 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

19 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is  
20 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
21 Public Enterprise Fund such an amount as may be nec-  
22 essary to pay for the costs of the medals authorized by  
23 this Act.

24 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
25 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be

- 1 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
- 2 Fund.

